(*d*) whether the Board of Management of the State Land Mortgage Bank has unanimously recommended to amend such a rule so as to issue loans on the security of lands mortgaged under usufructuary mortgage system ; and

(*e*) whether the Agricultural Debt Redemption Committee have recommended to the Government to consider all mortgages under usufructuary mortgage as simple mortgage and to give loans from the State Land Mortgage Bank on the security of such lands also ?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The question is engaging the attention of Government.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : How long is it since this question has been engaging the attention of Government.

RAO BAHADUR A. RANGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The question is under consideration. That is what the answer says.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : May I know how long it is since the attention of Government has been drawn ?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : For the last two months.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*) : How long will it take for Government to arrive at a decision ?

PRESIDENT : He is no prophet. He has told the House that it is under consideration.

Illicit tapping in the Ettumanur Excise Range

1171. ***MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR** (*Vaikam*) : (i) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) when a special Excise party was appointed to find out and report the illicit tapping conducted on a large scale by the shop contractors in the Ettumanur Excise Range ;

(*b*) the nature of the work done by the party ;

(*c*) whether any report was submitted and

(*d*) the action taken thereon ?

(ii) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : (*a*) A special party was appointed in the 2nd half of Makaram 1110. The party worked from 18-6-1110 to 25-6-1110.

(*b*) The special party patrolled the area and detected 21 cases of illicit tapping.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The officer found responsible for the illicit tapping was punished.

(ii) The Inspector who headed the party submitted several reports. The Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by placing those reports on the table.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*) : With reference to the answer to part (*d*), may I know the nature of the punishment meted out to the officer concerned ?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*); His promotion was barred for two years.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): May I know who that officer was?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The Excise Sub-Inspector there.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Was the officer responsible for the tapping? Did he himself tap illicitly? (*Laughter.*)

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It was his duty to prevent illicit tapping.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Has not the Range Inspector concurrent jurisdiction, along with the Sub-Inspector, over the areas for which a Sub-Inspector has been appointed?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The Sub-Inspectors in charge of parties are working under the Range Inspector.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Was any action taken against the Range Inspector?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No, not in respect of this case.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Was the explanation of the Range Inspector called for?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, Sir.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Has it been found that the Range Inspector was not in any way responsible in this case?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Will a Range Inspector be held responsible for illicit tapping within his range, in any case?

PRESIDENT: That is a general question.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Is not a Range Inspector responsible for illicit tapping within his range?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, he is also responsible.

State Life Insurance.

18. *MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether complaints have been received by them from private Insurance Companies against the opening of the Public Branch of the State Life Insurance activities;

(*b*) whether they have considered the complaints and, if so, the decision arrived at by them; and

(*c*) whether any other State or Government is running a Public Branch of the State Life Insurance?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASWAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. From the Travancore Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd., No. 1957.

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